



Michigan Department of Treasury

Lansing, Michigan

*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

*I, Allison Green, Treasurer of the State of Michigan, Do Hereby  
Certify That Articles of Incorporation of* \_\_\_\_\_

SEEDS OF DISCONTENT, INC.

*were duly filed in this office on the* 12th *day of* February *, 196*<sup>9</sup>*,*  
*in conformity with Act 327, Public Acts of 1931, as amended.*

*In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my  
hand and affixed the Seal of the Department,  
in the City of Lansing, this* 12th *day*  
*of* February *, 196*<sup>9</sup>*.*

*Allison Green*

*State Treasurer.*



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



LEON S. COHAN  
Deputy Attorney General

FRANK J. KELLEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

LANSING  
48106

April 8, 1969

Mr. Hartford Smith, Jr.  
18098 Roselawn  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Smith:

RE: SEEDS OF DISCONTENT, INC.  
CT# 3580

We acknowledge receipt of all the necessary documents pursuant to the registration requirements of Act 101, Public Acts of 1961, as amended, the Supervision of Trustees for Charitable Purposes Act. The registration number assigned to this trust is noted above. Please use this number to identify all future correspondence and reports.

Under said Act 101, each trust registered with this office must submit an annual report. Under our rules and regulations, a trust which solicits from the public must submit a CPA audit, or in lieu thereof, a financial statement sworn to by two trustees as accurate. This must be filed within six (6) months after the close of the fiscal or calendar year.

Those trusts which do not solicit from the public may file a copy of a CPA audit, a copy of a court accounting (if applicable), a copy of the Internal Revenue Service's Form 990-A, or our Form CT-15 which we will supply upon request. This likewise must be filed six (6) months after the close of the fiscal or calendar year.

Please direct any correspondence regarding annual accounts, including requests for our forms, to our Account Examiner at the address noted below. We request that you note on your calendar the date when the accounting for your trust is due. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

FRANK J. KELLEY  
Attorney General

*Edwin M. Bladen*

Edwin M. Bladen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Charitable Trust Division  
The Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan



## Introduction

The inadequacies mass media have demonstrated in the climate of social upheaval currently <sup>venting</sup> ~~stretching~~ the seams of American social fabric have been and are now being analyzed. They revolve around three essential points: (1) A lack of real concern--until the riots--for minority groups and their problems; (2) A lack of perception into, and from the viewpoint of, the various disenchanted areas of our society; and (3) The inability to get and present to the public significant expressions of the various realities present in the country today.

This is most blatant with respect to minority groups, especially the Negro, but it also manifests itself in an inability to perceive and appraise in a really meaningful manner the social problems encountered by individuals, families, and institutions at all levels of our rapidly changing society. In short, ~~the media because of their very nature,~~ <sup>from</sup> have been unable to break <sup>of</sup> for their preconceptions, and lack of contact with the situations and personalities <sup>they</sup> ~~it exists~~ <sup>have</sup> chosen to deal with merely as "news." As a result they have contributed little to knowledge, communication, or understanding.

It is the belief of Seeds of Discontent, Inc. that statistics do not speak, but that people do; that facts do not and can not exist separate from the human beings and human feelings that they abstractly



express.

Further, It is the belief of Seeds of Discontent that the people must speak, must say what they think and feel in any way they can, and that these documents of reality must be organized in a <sup>+ presented</sup> balanced <sup>view</sup> ~~view~~ based ~~view~~ expressed on the prevailing <sup>out-loud</sup> ~~view~~ <sup>voiced</sup> expressed by the group of people whose reality is being expressed.

The results of this attitude and technique can be seen in the documents on the radio series "Seeds of Discontent!" (See Part I)

Seeds of Discontent is, <sup>then,</sup> an attempt by professionals in the media to break new ground with relevant and meaningful programs designed to make abstract knowledge as real and as human as it is, and in doing this appeal to the human sensations in all men <sup>in order</sup> that another man's reality might be communicated and thus understood with compassion, ~~rather~~ <sup>with</sup> the detached abstraction of intellectual "understanding."



### Part III

(a non-profit, educational organization)

Seeds of Discontent, Inc., grew out of an increasing dissatisfaction on the part of its members with the way our mass media have been treating mistreating, or not treating at all, various aspects of contemporary social unrest, dissent, and ~~preliminary~~ change. The organization ~~is~~ ~~non-profit and~~ is devoted to organizing and bringing together perceptive and sympathetic craftsmen<sup>working</sup> in the various media with professionals in those fields most ~~pertinent and~~ relevant to social analysis in order to begin the project of meaningful public information which we feel must be done, and done as soon as possible.

Seeds of Discontent seeks to become a clearing house for ideas and information, a real pulse, if you will, of the inner workings of Detroit's millions of varied peoples. It can do this by dealing with the human facts of feeling, sensation, idea, attitude, opinion, interpretation, and letting people tell their story the way they see it, hear it, feel it.

It is obvious that the most pressing needs are in those areas relative to minorities, but that does not mean merely focussing on the inner city and the problems of the Negro, ~~or~~ the Mexican-American, <sup>or the poverty-stricken ~~black~~ white man.</sup> It means also turning the lens <sup>suburbs + the more affluent members of society</sup> outward to the ~~white man~~, focusing on his attitudes, ideas, feelings, and demonstrating that every man labors under his particular weakness ~~his dilemmas,~~



It means looking at institutions and organizations and the people in them, and asking relevant questions and getting adequate answers. It means looking at ourselves in the accurate mirror of human fact, not through the distortions of misconception, superstition, fear, or rumor.

= To this end Seeds of Discontent has established contact with individuals and organizations at all levels of society. This contact is not institutional, but personal, based on mutual interest

and a willingness to cooperate in getting at and presenting "what's happening." This is in direct rectification of the unfortunate relationships other media personnell have had with many individuals and groups in our city. *Many individuals, ~~both~~ professionals and ordinary citizens, at the grass roots level, have indicated their support by participating as a loose knit group of advisers. This group will be formalized enough to enable the scheduling of meetings.*

*In carrying out this personal approach, the inter-racial composition of the organization has proven its value for working through to balanced perspectives on what is really happening.*

New organizations, formal and informal, official and unofficial,

have been sought out to be appraised on their individual intentions, relevance, and success. This is ~~but~~ one indication of the basic philosophy behind Seeds of Discontent. That is, that the society must be de-polarized by more adequate analysis and interpretation of current *social dynamics* ~~situations~~, and that this can best be done, as has been outlined, by the techniques we have adapted for communicating the "reality" perceived by individuals and groups in the social body.



Confrontations must be perceived, analyzed, and possible resolutions outlined. It has been found that these resolutions are not institutional, but personal. This is not to say that institutions are not intimately involved, but it ~~does~~ <sup>to</sup> say that basic conflicts are resolved ~~first~~ on a personal level, not as a matter of policy handed down through bureaucratic edict. For example, in <sup>citizen-</sup> ~~police-~~ <sup>Public agency</sup> ~~community~~ relations, the point of contact is, <sup>for example,</sup> one man's relationship <sup>welfare caseworker</sup> with to one ~~police officer~~, not all citizens' relationship to the <sup>Welfare</sup> ~~police~~ department. If conflict arises at that level, it must be resolved at that level. It has been the finding of Seeds of Discontent that many new social organizations have <sup>been</sup> ~~been~~ created and have grown ~~out of~~ to meet the needs of people that have not been met by already existing institutions and organizations. <sup>these + other</sup> It is the belief ~~that~~ human events occur in the fulfillment of human need. Each man expresses himself, <sup>his wants,</sup> ~~his needs,~~ <sup>to him</sup> ~~his~~ aspirations, + ~~his~~ desires for the future, in the ways most open, and in which he is most articulate, ~~and most able to do so.~~ For the successful man of business it <sup>may be</sup> ~~is~~ the "good feeling" he receives from doing what he does well, receiving commensurate remuneration, caring for his family, and enjoying his leisure time as he desires. For



the man of little education, with a ~~black~~ skin that brands him as inferior, out of a job, with his children asking for an explanation of the world he did not make, it might well be the sense of

release and gratification of the fire bomb or the sniper's bullet.

*It is felt that*

If human need is to be fulfilled, it must ~~first~~ be seen by ~~these~~ *all of us*

*who are*

in a position to aid in the fulfillment. But further, it must be

seen accurately and completely, with a sense of what it means, not

merely as another piece of data to be filed with the overwhelming

barrage of ~~stimulation~~ facts, ideas, informations, ~~sonnets~~, *of the media*

~~songs, etc. etc.~~ that each of us labors under day *by* day.

~~This is the task to which Seeds of Discontent addresses itself.~~

In our fragmented and specialized society we have forfeited our human perspectives of feeling, compassion, and sympathy to the demands of commerce, the pragmatism of profit, and the inability to feel relevant as an individual to the monsters many of our institutions and social problems have become. When in our society each man feels and knows ~~and~~ *that he* does have a voice that influences his destiny, we will *that wrongs can be set right* be on our way to social health. *that conditions + institutions can change*

*APP* This is the task to which Seeds of Discontent addresses itself.



## Summary

Seeds of Discontent demonstrates the validity and effectiveness of its approach and technique, as has been attested to by the various political figures, professional people, <sup>public</sup> agencies, educators and others whose endorsements and comments are herein contained.

The enclosed tape compiled from programs one <sup>6</sup> and seven, <sup>+8</sup> as was noted above, demonstrates the actual program format and an example of the type of material dealt with.

It should be recognized that these programs were produced before the ~~Kerner~~ Report, and before the <sup>recent study commissioned on</sup> ~~Schools report~~ <sup>Detroit Public School</sup>, during the fall and early winter of <sup>1967</sup> ~~1968~~, thus anticipating those reports by the facts presented and the conclusions drawn.



III cont.



Through public articulation of + involvement in the Processes that are indeed history, wherein individuals can have an actual tangible role to play in the recording of that history, many of the gaps caused by alienation + disenchantment can be bridged.

This, <sup>then,</sup> ~~can~~ ~~then~~ be the basis for a counter-force to synthesize + make relevant ~~the~~ fact + information in order to create conditions that will make the moves toward repressive measures unnecessary as social energies begin to move in positive directions.

In sum, we must reassert the basic tenants of Participatory democracy, and ~~Provide~~ actual avenues for that Participation.



**Scanned from the Hartford Smith, Jr. collection at the  
Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research,  
with support from Stephen P. Jarchow.**



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